



## central mudminnow

*Umbra limi*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Clupeiformes
Family:	Umbridae

### Features

The central mudminnow has a stout body with a short, blunt snout and a short dorsal fin located near the tail. The upper part of the body is olive brown and mottled with up to 14 indistinct bars on the sides and a prominent dark bar at the base of the tail. The belly is yellow to white and the fins are brownish. The scales are large. The mouth is at the tip of the snout and the lower jaw protrudes slightly. Adults reach a maximum length of five to six inches, averaging two inches long.

### Natural History

The central mudminnow is scattered throughout eastern and north-central Iowa in streams, sloughs, ponds, lakes, and marshes with dense vegetation. It avoids areas with current. It can withstand very low oxygen conditions because it can absorb oxygen through its swim bladder. Drainage of Iowa wetlands has eliminated much of its suitable habitat. It eats arthropods (insects, sowbugs, etc.), snails, fish, plants, and algae. Mudminnows spawn in April in shallow

backwater areas. The female deposits 200 to 2,200 adhesive eggs (depending on her size) on vegetation. The eggs hatch in about seven days. The central mudminnow is used extensively as bait where it is plentiful because of its hardiness.

### Habitats

interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; Mississippi River

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

northeast Iowa and Clay, Muscatine, and Louisa Counties

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.